

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 19**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2001- 005**  
**DATE: May 7, 2001      TIME: 4:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: This weekend's heavy rainfall of up to 2.5 inches caused minor rises on the Red River at Fargo and Grand Forks. By today, however, the river continued its slow recession at all North Dakota gauging points. Today's river readings indicated the river measured 10.42 feet at Wahpeton, where flood stage is 10 feet; 22.26 feet at Fargo, where flood stage is 17 feet; 30 feet at Grand Forks, where flood stage is 28 feet; and 46.15 feet at Pembina, where flood stage is 42 feet. The only location to remain under a flood warning is Drayton, where the river measured 38.13 feet today. The National Weather Service (NWS) expects to cancel the warning on May 8 once the river drops below its 38-foot moderate flood stage.

This weekend's rainfall is expected to cause significant rises on two Red River tributaries, the Sheyenne and Maple Rivers, and a moderate rise on the Goose River. A NWS river flood statement indicates that the heaviest amount of rain fell in the North Dakota portion of the Red River Basin, quickly saturating ground that had just begun to dry out. NWS forecasters expect runoff from the recent rain to push the Sheyenne River at Harwood up to 885.5 feet on May 9; flood stage is 884 feet. The river measured 880.1 feet today. At West Fargo, the river may rise to within one-half foot of its 16.5-foot flood stage by May 10. The level today measured 12.4 feet. The Maple River, which was at 9.7 feet today, is expected to rise 10 to 11 feet by May 8. Flood stage is nine feet. The Goose River at Hillsboro measured 4.3 feet today and may rise to 5.6 feet by May 10. Flood stage is seven feet.

In Traill County, two inches of rain on May 6 caused heavy runoff in fields and ditches. At this time, two culvert washouts have occurred, leaving one family without access to its farmstead. Heavy rainfall has also undermined two bridges at risk of collapsing.

Northeast North Dakota emergency managers reported that heavy rains have further deteriorated road conditions. Road crews suspended their earlier attempts to stabilize roads after this weekend's rain created extremely saturated ground conditions. Precipitation totals ranged from one to three inches.

Weekend precipitation totals reported by the NWS for the Devils Lake and Red River Basins are as follows: Edmore, 1.12 inches; Devils Lake, 0.62 inches (Sunday only); Grand Forks, 2.32 inches; Mayville, 1.95 inches; Langdon, 1.07 inches; Casselton, 2.61 inches; Hansboro, 2.58 inches; Lisbon, 0.99 inches; Fort Ransom, 1.67 inches; Cogswell, 0.68 inches; and Wahpeton, one inch.

NWS recorded weekend rainfall amounts in western and central North Dakota as follows: Williston, 0.05 inches; Minot, 0.49 inches; Bottineau/Newburg area, 1.25 inches; Dickinson, 0.45 inches; Garrison, 0.35 inches; Hettinger, 0.31 inches; Bismarck, 0.42 inches; Streeter, 1.04 inches; Steele, 1.20 inches; Jamestown, 1.49 inches; ; Carrington, 1.39 inches; Medina, 0.94 inches; seven miles east of Ellendale, 1.15 inches; Fullerton, 1.60 inches; Verona, 0.57 inches; Berlin, 1.40 inches; Strasburg, 1.10 inches; and Hague, one inch.

Ransom County road crews are flagging soft road spots after the area received up to two inches of rain this weekend. Lisbon Public Schools held classes on May 7; however, bus service was suspended because of road conditions.

In Benson County, Twin Lake has overflowed into Mud Lake, creating a four-foot canal of fine silt. High water tables have saturated road beds, restricting vehicular traffic.

Gusty winds are causing shoulder and wind erosion on roadways in Pierce and McHenry Counties. Officials reported waves as high as three feet on larger bodies of water.

McLean County officials reported damages to streets in Turtle Lake as a result of problems related to water seepage. Officials are also monitoring the lagoon system for the city of Max. Water surrounding the lagoon has caused damage to nearby roads and has inundated a neighboring mobile home park.

In Bottineau County, flood conditions have resulted in damages to roads, culverts and personal property.

Two locations on state highways in Pembina County remain closed because of floodwaters. These sites are located on N.D. Highway 66, at mile marker 138 to the Red River; and N.D. Highway 5, at mile marker 335 to the Red River. The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that Devils Lake sites where water is on the roadway, but traffic is allowed include: N.D. Highway 19, at mile marker 147, nine miles east of its junction with U.S. Highway 281; N.D. Highway 57, at mile marker 1, one mile east of its junction with U.S. Highway 281; and N.D. Highway 200 at mile marker 257, west of Chaseley. Water is on the edge of N.D. Highway 200 at another location, mile markers 230 and 231, three miles east of McClusky. Other highways with the water on roadway but where traffic is allowed include: N.D. Highway 54, I-29 to Oslo; N.D. Highway 59, from I-29 near Pembina to the Minnesota border; N.D. Highway 11, Fairmount to the Red River at mile markers 180-182; N.D. Highway 14, at mile marker 69, 4 ½ miles south of Anamoose; and N.D. Highway 3, at mile marker 123, 10 miles north of Tuttle.

Stutsman County officials reported that Jamestown Dam peaked on April 21 at 1,442.9 feet. Inflows into the reservoir have slowed from 1,500 to 600 cubic feet per second (cfs). Pipestem Dam measured 1,473.4 feet on April 30, a 2.3-foot increase during a 13-day period. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) had increased flows from the two dams to 1,250 cfs by May 3. In response to the increased flows, the city plugged storm sewers and is considering building a small dike downstream of the dam. Officials anticipate that the releases will not cause damage to private or public properties. The USACE has authority to reduce flows from Jamestown Dam if the area receives significant precipitation.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: At the request of Governor John Hoeven, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to assist state and local officials in conducting a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to evaluate flood damages for potential federal assistance. Inspector training will be held May 8 for 15 PDA teams assessing public assistance damages, and assessments will begin May 9. Inspector training for four PDA teams assessing individual assistance damages will be held May 14. Assessments will then begin on May 15.

Officials in Cavalier and Foster Counties have issued emergency declarations. Disaster declarations have been signed by officials in Benson, Bottineau, Kidder, Rolette and Sheridan Counties.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

---

Douglas C. Friez, State Director